

## December 9

**1790** Henry S. Geyer was born in Fredericktown, Maryland. In St. Louis, he became a five-term state legislator and leading attorney, arguing for the defense in the Dred Scott case. Geyer wrote the act that established the state public schools. Geyer road was named after him.

**1822** The Missouri Legislature granted St. Louis a town charter, incorporating the town government with a mayor, and a board of alderman. At the time, the population was about 1,200. The charter expanded the boundaries of the town to Seventh Street on the West, Ashley and Biddle on the North, and Convent Street on the South.

**1824** Missouri's first liquor laws were passed by the legislature. The law provided for a fine or imprisonment for anyone giving or selling alcohol to an Indian.

**1852** The first trains ever to run west of the Mississippi began operations along five miles of completed track on the Pacific Railroad. The rails ended at Cheltenham, in what is now southwest St. Louis. They reached Kirkwood in May 1853 and Jefferson City in 1855.

**1875** President Ulysses S. Grant fired General John Henderson, the man he had sent to St. Louis as special prosecutor in the Whiskey Ring case. Henderson made the mistake of allowing testimony that led to the indictment of Grant's personal secretary.

**1877** Days after the St. Louis Browns of the National League folded, the owner of the Grand Avenue Baseball Grounds announced that he would tear down the stands. Sportsmen's Park would later be built on the site.

**1878** A representative of Joseph Pulitzer purchased the bankrupt *St. Louis Dispatch* for \$2,500 at a sheriff's sale. Within hours of the auction at the Old Courthouse, The editor of the *Post* approached Pulitzer, and proposed a merger. The first edition of the *St. Louis Post and Dispatch* hit the streets on December 12th.

**1904** The Chicago House Wrecking Company was award the \$450,000 contract to tear down the buildings at the world's fair. The company now owned all fair property, except for the statuary and some of the operating equipment.

**1922** John Elroy Sanford was born in St. Louis. He dropped out of school at age 13 to break into show business and became known as "Redd" because of his complexion. He also took the name of baseball player Jimmy Foxx. The groundbreaking comedian made his movie debut in *Cotton Comes to Harlem* in 1972. That same year, Norman Lear signed him to star in the American version of the British show, *Steptoe and Son*. *Sanford and Son* ran on NBC from 1972 to 1977.

**1941** Two days after Pearl Harbor, Police had rounded up 22 Germans and one Italian alien. They were deemed "a danger to the welfare of the city." Three Japanese

restaurants, the Kobe on Market, the Oriental Kitchen on South Grand, and Oriental Food Supply on Delmar were closed and guarded.

**1944** Missouri Governor Forrest Donnell and Governor Dwight Green of Illinois dedicated the Jefferson Barracks Bridge. The new bridge made the last ferry in St. Louis obsolete. The Davis Street Ferry had been in operation for about 75 years. A new arch span replaced the original Jefferson Barracks Bridge in 1983.

**1958** Charles L. Farris, executive director of the Land Clearance for Redevelopment Authority, made the first substantial proposal for a downtown stadium. He called for a \$30 million facility in a 19-block area bounded by the Third Street Expressway, 7<sup>th</sup>, Walnut, Market and the elevated railroad tracks between Gratiot and Cerre. Part of the area was known as Chinatown, and the rest was very seedy.

**1959** In packed public hearings, people were speaking out on the three controversial routes for the proposed Interstate 44. Most of them were against a plan to send the highway from U.S. 66 at Sylvan Beach through Webster Groves and Shrewsbury. About 2,200 families would be displaced in the city alone.

**1960** The City Plan Commission approved the plans for the downtown stadium. That same day, plans were announced for a 20-story office building at Third and Market, to be called the "Gateway Tower." (Now the home of KMOX)

**1965** Branch Rickey collapsed at a speaking engagement in Columbia and died at the age of 83. Rickey created the "farm system," which built the Cardinals into a dynasty in the 1920's and 30's. He also served stints as manager of the Browns and the Redbirds. As president of the Dodgers, he signed Jackie Robinson in 1947 and broke the major league color barrier.

**1967** Glenn Hall became the first Blues goalie to record a shut out. It came against the California Golden Seals in Oakland.

**1971** Bernard F. Dickmann died. He served two terms as mayor for 1933 to 1941. Dickmann pushed for an anti-smoke ordinance that cleaned up St. Louis but cost him a third term. He also was instrumental in securing funding for the Arch. The Poplar Street Bridge is also named the Bernard F. Dickmann Bridge in his honor.

**1971** Proponents of a second airport at Columbia-Waterloo, Illinois won a major victory. The East-West Gateway Coordinating Council, the area's transit planning agency, endorsed the East Side airport plan.

**1980** St. Louis stations KADI and KWK FM were airing tributes to the murdered John Lennon. Record stores were sold out of Lennon's latest album, "Double Fantasy." The manager of Wuxtry Records in University City closed his store in memory of Lennon.

**1982** The Cardinals sent Ken Reitz and Leon Durham to the Cubs for reliever Bruce Sutter. A day earlier, Whitey Herzog had traded Terry Kennedy, Steve Swisher, Mike Phillips, John Littlefield, John Urrea, Kim Seaman and Al Olmstead to the Padres. In return, the Birds picked up Rollie Fingers, Bob Shirley and Gene Tenace.

**1993** Police found the body of 10-year-old Cassidy Senter in an alley in North St. Louis. She had disappeared on December 1st, just 12 days after Angie Houseman. Thomas Brooks was arrested for Cassidy's murder on February 3, 1994.

**2003** Former Senator Paul Simon died at the age of 75. The Southern Illinois Democrat was known for his integrity, and his trademark bow ties. Simon's political career began with his election to Illinois in 1954. Simon was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1984 and retired from Congress in 1997. He ran for president in 1988. After leaving politics, Simon founded the public policy institute at Southern Illinois University – Carbondale.

**2004** Belleville's Catholic bishop Wilton Gregory was named as Archbishop of Atlanta.